

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TO SECSTATE WASH DC PRIORITY 6711

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

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TAGS: ETRD, OECD

SUBJECT: WHERE WE STAND ON RENEWING THE TRADE PLEDGE

REFS: A) OECD PARIS 6541; B) LONDON 5452

1. SUMMARY: WITH UK (AND HENCE EC) POSITION ON RENEWAL OF TRADE PLEDGE APPARENTLY STILL HUNG UP ON PROBLEM OF COMMITMENT FROM SURPLUS COUNTRIES (I.E. FRG), AND HIGH DESIRABILITY THAT THIS PROBLEM BE RESOLVED, AT LEAST IN PRINCIPLE, BY MAY 6-7 XCSS, MISSION URGES DEPARTMENT AUTHORIZE EC POSTS TO WEIGH IN IMMEDIATELY WITH HOST GOVERNMENTS AND EC COMMISSION ON IMPORTANCE US ATTACHES TO EARLY DECISION ON PLEDGE RENEWAL. END SUMMARY

2. RESULT OF DISCUSSION OF TRADE PLEDGE RENEWAL AT MARCH XCSS WAS INVITATION TO OECD SECRETARY GENERAL TO CONSULT WITH DELS AND DRAFT TEXT OF "SUPPORTING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COMMENTS" FOR CONSIDERATION AT MAY MEETING OF SAME

COMMITTEE. AT THAT TIME EC COMMISSION DEL (HIJZEN) TOLD THE US THAT GETTING POSITIVE EC POSITION WAS PROBLEM OF RECONCILING UK AND FRG VIEWS ON THE DUTIES OF SURPLUS COUNTRIES AND THAT THIS WOULD BE WORKED OUT IN EC CONTEXT. OECD SECRETARIAT HAS BEEN IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH HIJZEN SINCE THEN AND CONFIRMS THAT ACTIVE EFFORTS ARE BEING MADE TO RESOLVE DIFFERENCES BEFORE THE XCSS. SECRETARIAT HOPES TO HAVE WORD OF POSITIVE OUTCOME THIS WEEK AND TO DISTRIBUTE DRAFT "COMMENTS" INFORMALLY TO DELS IN TIME TO FACILITATE EXCHANGE OF VIEWS BY OFFICIALS ATTENDING APRIL 30 MEETING OF TRADE COMMITTEE.

3. AS REPORTED IN REF B, UK HOPES TO GET CABINET DECISION IN TIME FOR ARTICLE 113 COMMITTEE MEETING IN BRUSSELS APRIL 25. THIS WOULD APPEAR TO BE LAST GOOD OPPORTUNITY BEFORE MAY XCSS TO GET EC POSITION TOGETHER. IN VIEW OF THE HIGH DESIRABILITY OF SMOOTHING THE WAY TO THE OECD MINISTERIAL BY AGREEING IN PRINCIPLE AT THE MAY XCSS TO RENEW THE TRADE PLEDGE WITHOUT CHANGES IN TEXT, WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE WORTHWHILE FOR US TO MAKE EFFORT TO ENSURE EC MEMBERS ARE AWARE OF OUR CONCERN THAT PLEDGE RENEWAL NOT BE PUT IN DOUBT BY FAILURE TO REACH AGREEMENT WITHIN COMMUNITY.

4. MISSION THEREFORE RECOMMENDS THAT DEPARTMENT AUTHORIZE USEC AND EMBASSIES IN EC CAPITALS TO REEMPHASIZE TO APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS THE IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO PLEDGE RENEWAL (POSTS COULD DRAW ON US STATEMENT MADE AT LAST XCSS REPORTED IN REF A) AND EMPHASIZE THE DESIRABILITY OF REACHING AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE ON THE FRAMEWORK FOR RENEWAL AT THE MAY XCSS MEETING.
TURNER

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